

parks, our public lands. If there is no excess, then you don't have to find it anywhere else because there will be no money that goes to that.

This is not mandatory in any way.

Also, some people are saying, well, maybe there should be an offset for this new program. This is really not a new program. The parks and public lands exist. The responsibility to make sure that they are viable, they are paid, and they are sustainable already exists. This is an existing program.

We are not taking anything from any other program for this. We are simply basing it on what is already our existing responsibility.

If you were to try and go through a traditional approach of trying to appropriate more money through our budgeting process, that wouldn't have to have an offset. What we are talking about here is existing programs, existing needs, and existing responsibilities.

We have spent a whole lot of time buying up land. The Federal Government owns one-third of America already. It is easy to buy up more property. It is easy to establish a park because that sounds really cool. You get your name on it, and it gives you a legacy. The hard part is maintaining that land.

And for heaven's sake, if we are going to take the responsibility and build a legacy, to actually buy something and create something, we have to take the responsibility of maintaining it, and this is exactly what we are talking about.

I am so proud that there are so many Republicans and so many Democrats who have realized this is our obligation, this is our responsibility, and we have to do it.

This bill is extremely important because it is a proper approach to solving an existing problem. I encourage the leaders of this House to bring it to the floor soon so it can be debated and heard.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Gershon Avtzon, Yeshivas Lubavitch Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, master of the universe, I invoke Your blessing today on the Members of this honorable institu-

tion, the House of Representatives of the United States of America. May they humbly serve their constituencies, aware that creating just legislation is one of the seven laws that You, almighty God, gave all humanity through Noah, as detailed in Genesis.

Almighty God, as a descendant of Chassidic Jews who fled the Stalinist regime that persecuted religious observance, I am especially grateful and blessed to be in America, the nation called the "country of kindness" by the great spiritual leader of our generation, the Lubavitcher Rebbe Melech HaMoshiach, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. We thank you for the freedom we have here to practice our faith, and we pray for those who still suffer persecution around the world.

While legislating, by definition, includes differences of opinion and rigorous debate, I pray that we, nevertheless, anticipate our shared bright future in the time of redemption and, thus, remain "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PAYNE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI GERSHON AVTZON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the rabbi for coming to the Capitol today to share with us a time in prayer, a time when we often need it.

America has been through many battles. We have many debates. But we always come out strong, and we come out together, at the end of the day.

I thank the rabbi for his kind prayer and thoughtfulness as we proceed forward as a Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further re-

quests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE PAYNE FELLOWSHIP

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Donald M. Payne, Sr., International Development Graduate Fellowship Program.

My father, the late Donald M. Payne, was committed to human rights at home, in Africa, and around the world. I am honored by the Payne Fellows' commitment to my father's legacy, and I have developed a deep appreciation for everything they have done to uplift humanity.

I am proud that the fellowship named for my father helps talented young people enter the USAID Foreign Service program. Today, the Payne Fellows are leading the charge on some of the greatest global challenges of our time.

Since its inception in 2013, the program has trained 50 talented young individuals who come from diverse backgrounds to enrich and enhance the USAID Foreign Service.

This year, I hosted one of the Payne Fellows in my office. Her name is Meklit Gebbru.

Meklit's intellect, work ethic, humor, and, most of all, her positive attitude will truly be missed in my office. The day after her arrival, she was writing questions for me to use in Committee on Homeland Security subcommittee hearings.

Again, I thank the USAID and the Payne Fellows for their commitment to providing humanitarian efforts while in support of America's foreign policy.

REMEMBERING THE CARLTON COMPLEX FIRE

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, it has been 5 years since the largest single wildfire in Washington State history.

The Carlton Complex fire raged through north-central Washington, burning more than a quarter of a million acres and leaving more than 500 homes and structures destroyed in its path. Still today, the communities, small businesses, and families in Okanogan County continue to rebuild and work to address the long-term consequences of this disaster.

While the devastation was heart-breaking, what we saw on the ground was a testament to the resilience and spirit of Washingtonians, as well as the generosity and bravery of those from across the region and the Nation who came to north-central Washington's aid.

At the height of the fire, in those frightening days of late July 2014, more